

MHS Data User:

The U.S. Bureau of the Census is contacting known users of the Manufactured Housing Survey (MHS) data to inform them that the survey may be discontinued due to funding issues, and to provide users with a point of contact to express their views on the importance of the data.

The Census Bureau processes the MHS under a reimbursable agreement with the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We receive no funding of our own for this survey, but do consider it an essential part of knowing what is happening in the housing industry. Funding for the MHS has become an issue. Many federal agencies, including HUD, are feeling the budget crunch and have had to make spending cuts. For FY 2007, Census has received only half of the normal funds for the MHS. This will allow us to complete data collection for the 2006 statistical months (complete January - December processing). Whether we receive additional funding to continue the survey remains to be seen at this time. We may not know until the fall of 2006.

We believe it would be helpful if users contacted HUD to express their needs for MHS data. It would be of great benefit if as many data users as possible would let HUD know that the information provided by the MHS is useful, important and necessary. Our counterparts at HUD also consider this very important data, but they are the ones that must decide on the future of the survey. Hopefully, getting positive feedback from the industry and data users will influence the decision makers to continue the survey.

If you choose to contact HUD to express your interest in the continuance of the survey, your comments should be as specific as possible about the consequences of not having the MHS data available. Comments should be sent to the following point of contact at HUD:

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Office of Policy Development & Research
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Thank you for your support.